

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 3/24/2011  
HB 617

House Bill 617  
March 24, 2011  
Presented by Joe Maurier  
House Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Joe Maurier, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 617.

House Bill 617 proposes to adjust the price of a special category of nonresident hunting licenses to make it easier for former Montana residents to come back to Montana to hunt with resident family members. Popularly called "Come Home to Hunt" licenses, the 2009 Legislature authorized a four-year pilot program using these licenses, based upon recommendations from the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council that had broad public support. Revenue from these licenses must be used by FWP to acquire public access to public land.

While I-161 increased the price of all nonresident deer and elk combination licenses, the Department agrees with the sponsor of House Bill 617 that the "Come Home to Hunt" licenses should be priced at a lower fee, because hunters using those licenses are restricted to hunting only with designated family members, whereas other nonresident hunters do not face those kinds of restrictions.

We ask you to consider a "Do Pass" vote for House Bill 617.